

THE REPUBLICAN.

BY W. M. NICHOLS & CO.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1870.

GENERAL APATHY.

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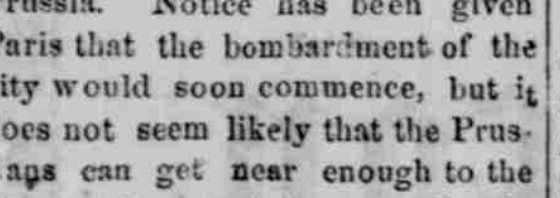
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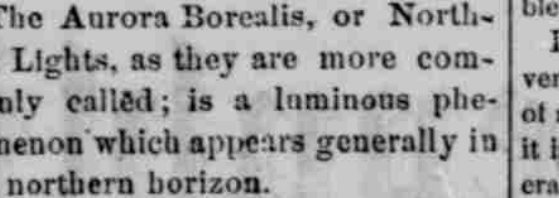
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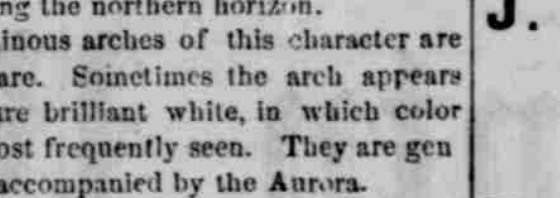
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The Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights, as they are more commonly called; is a luminous phenomenon which appears generally in the northern horizon. This mysterious phenomenon consists of luminous rays of various colors, apparently shooting upwards from the surface of the earth, into the heavens. A meteor of such striking appearance could not otherwise than attract the attention of philosophers in all ages: and give rise to various theories, respecting the cause of this phenomenon. Accordingly we find quite a diversity of opinion as to the producing cause. Some have imagined that these Lights were due to the refraction of the Sun's rays. The celebrated Euler supposed that they were identical with the tails of comets. Some have supposed they were caused by the intermixture of the Sun's atmosphere with that of the earth. But all these opinions are now abandoned. It is now supposed that the transmission of electricity through the atmosphere (when in a highly rarified condition) is the cause of this phenomenon. This theory was adopted when the relation between magnetism and electricity was demonstrated. But as yet the complete details have not been given. To a great extent this phenomenon is shrouded with mystery; and an opportunity is yet given to some one to enroll his name on fame's record.

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A few days ago the citizens of our village had an opportunity of witnessing an exhibition of one of these singular phenomena. It was indeed a beautiful sight, calling forth the highest admiration of one part, and the most alarming apprehensions of another class. The former looked upon the moving shafts of colored lights as the varied expression of the glory and grandeur of Nature's Laws, harmoniously and steadily working out some benevolent scheme in the economy of creation; while the latter could see in the crimson sky, hostile armies marching in battle array to meet each other in the struggle of bloody conflict.

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Another of these beautiful scenes came off this morning, (Monday Oct. 25th) revealing to human eyes one of the most grand and imposing sights which we ever witnessed. I first observed it about 4 o'clock